Vital Signs: Suicide Rising Across the US: More Than a Mental Health Concern

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Suicide: A Brief Overview

- Leading cause of death
- Between 1999-2016 rates increased ~30%
- Suicide is often viewed as a mental health issue
- A range of factors contribute to suicide
- A comprehensive approach to prevention is needed to reach our national goal: to reduce suicide rates 20% by 2025

### Leading Causes of Death By Age Group, Ages 10-59, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>10-14 years</th>
<th>15-19 years</th>
<th>20-29 years</th>
<th>30-39 years</th>
<th>40-49 years</th>
<th>50-59 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Unintentional Injuries</td>
<td>Unintentional Injuries</td>
<td>Unintentional Injuries</td>
<td>Unintentional Injuries</td>
<td>Unintentional Injuries</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Suicide</strong></td>
<td><strong>Suicide</strong></td>
<td><strong>Suicide</strong></td>
<td><strong>Suicide</strong></td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>Unintentional Injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms</td>
<td>Malignant Neoplasms</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td><strong>Suicide</strong></td>
<td>Liver Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Congenital Malformations</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Liver Disease</td>
<td>Chronic Lower Respiratory Ds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>Congenital Malformations</td>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
<td>Liver Disease</td>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chronic Lower Respiratory Ds</td>
<td>Chronic Lower Respiratory Ds</td>
<td>Congenital Malformations</td>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
<td>Cerebro-Vascular</td>
<td><strong>Suicide</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cerebro-Vascular</td>
<td>Cerebro-Vascular</td>
<td>Complicated pregnancy</td>
<td>Cerebro-Vascular</td>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>Cerebro-Vascular</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Strategy for Suicide Prevention calls for a public health approach to suicide prevention with activities spanning multiple levels of the social ecology.

In 2017, CDC released “Preventing Suicide: A Technical Package of Policy, Programs, and Practices.”

A technical package is a collection of prevention strategies and approaches with the best available evidence to impact on public health problems, such as suicide.

Source: Frieden,
Vital Signs Objectives

To assist states in achieving the national goal of reducing annual suicide rates 20% by 2025,

- CDC analyzed state specific trends in suicide rates between 1999 and 2016.

To understand the range of factors contributing to suicide,

- CDC assessed the multiple factors contributing to suicide among decedents with and without mental health conditions

To help states address the range of factors contributing to suicide,

- CDC provides suicide prevention strategies and approaches based on the best available evidence (per its technical package on suicide prevention)

Release date: June 7, 2018
**States and Communities Can:**

- Identify and support people at risk of suicide.
- Teach coping and problem-solving skills to help people manage challenges with their relationships, jobs, health, or other concerns.
- Promote safe and supportive environments. This includes safely storing medications and firearms to reduce access among people at risk.
- Offer activities that bring people together so they feel connected and not alone.
- Connect people at risk to effective and coordinated mental and physical healthcare.
- Expand options for temporary help for those struggling to make ends meet.
- Prevent future risk of suicide among those who have lost a loved one to suicide.

**Everyone Can:**

- Ask someone you are worried about if they’re thinking about suicide.
- Keep them safe. Reduce access to lethal means for those at risk.
- Be there with them. Listen to what they need.
- Help them connect with ongoing support like the Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK (8255)).
- Follow up to see how they’re doing.
- Find out how this can save a life by visiting: [www.BeThe1to.com](http://www.BeThe1to.com).
Thank you

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“Hope, help, and healing is possible.”